

IOWA BIRD LIFE

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BIRDS AT MY STUDIO WINDOW

By EARNEST W. STEFFEN

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

(With illustrations by the author)

In writing or talking about birds, I am always impelled to emphasize the pleasure derived from bird observation and the birds' place in the conservation picture. Though much that is written about birds is a repetition of what has previously been related, here is a phase of bird study that will bear considerable repeating. Much may be gained by new statements of old facts.

Because I do paint bird pictures, we have designed our house with the idea distinctly in mind of attracting the birds in order that we may better observe them. The house is L-shaped with my studio window looking into the space formed by the L. Here are trees, shrubs, low evergreens, flowering plants, ferns, a feeder, and a pool. All these things attract the birds, and I am given the pleasure of close and careful observation.

The observation of these birds—their color, their pose, and their activity—has been very interesting and valuable to me. I have kept notes concerning my observations, and the reading of these recently has led to the present effort. I have in mind here a review of my experiences with some of the birds that have come to my studio window. Of interest, too, are the scientific names which for some time have intrigued me.

EASTERN CARDINAL—*Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis*¹

We always expect the Cardinal to visit the feeder. That is why we keep sunflower seed there constantly. We long for the visit and, of course, it will come. But the Cardinal, for us at least, has proved rather unpredictable. He will announce his presence with an oft repeated "chick." Then we wait expectantly. What a thrill it is to see him come, debonair and crested, and what a picture his red coat makes against the white snow!

Once we cultivated the acquaintance of a male Cardinal to the extent that he would alight at our feet when food was brought outdoors, or he would call at the window when he was hungry. Once he perched himself on a sumac limb as near as he could get to our dining-room window and actually sang for his supper. Tommy Tucker had nothing on him. When fed he was perfectly satisfied and went away happy. We accomplished this by giving him special attention such as bringing out sunflower seed whenever he announced his presence. He liked this special attention, for the Cardinal is a perfect gentleman and does not like to compete with other birds.

It was this same Cardinal who later in the spring brought his more demurely colored mate to the feeding



CARDINAL

¹Richmondia—This name is a Latinized version of the word Richmond. It has been attached to the Cardinal in order to honor Charles W. Richmond, a noted American ornithologist.

Cardinalis refers to the bright red robes worn by those who occupy the office of cardinal.

station and tried to interest her in a certain evergreen near the house. But she couldn't see eye to eye with him and in a few days they disappeared. We didn't see them again until late in August. He returned then with his whole family. Proud he was though in appearance somewhat worn and harried. We were so glad to see him again that we scarcely noticed the family, but when we did it was with a sobering shock. The family consisted of one young Cardinal and two Cowbirds. The mother devoted her attention exclusively to the young Cardinal while the father was kept busy caring for the two over-grown, ever-hungry Cowbirds.

I remember when this Cardinal came one cold winter day, when the temperature had gone down to 26 degrees below zero. He sat in the shelter of the house on a branch of a young elm tree with his feathers fluffed around the limb where his feet were. He never moved from the location all day except to go to the feeder occasionally to get food. However he was not long with us. Later we noted that he no longer came to claim sunflower seed. One of the many enemies of wild animals had, no doubt, visited calamity upon our fair friend. Perhaps a cat got him (there are plenty—too many—in the neighborhood) or perhaps he experienced one of the other tragedies that overtake birds.

MYRTLE WARBLER—*Dendroica coronata*²

Although Myrtle Warblers are usually plentiful during migration, I never fail to become highly interested in these beautiful and sprightly little members of the bird world. They

are the first of the warblers to appear from their winter range and the last to come along in the fall on their return trip. They come often to the area near my studio window and seem to be especially interested in the spiders that have located in the corners and under the eaves. Last fall I heard a vigorous thump on my window and looked up in time to see a Myrtle fluttering in a dazed and desperate manner until he reached the branch of a small spruce near by. There he sat with eyes closed for about five minutes before he recovered and resumed active duty. In his enthusiasm to catch spiders or insects he had neglected to observe that his world ended at the window-pane and did not continue through and beyond. This little nook is very attractive to the Myrtles. They drink at the pool, sally after insects that are, no doubt, attracted by the warmer temperature of the protected area, and enjoy themselves no end.

In the spring they seem to be partial to the hawthorn and the wild crab, which are not far away. The lower branches of a river birch attracts them also. Here they move about rapidly in pursuit of food, with tail spread and wings drooping, or fluttering in flight. At intervals they fly out in the manner of a flycatcher to deftly capture an insect. They are doing their full share in the control of insects.



MYRTLE WARBLER

²*Dendroica* is a combination of two Greek words, the first, "dendro," meaning tree, and the second, "oecium," meaning house. This probably refers to the habit of making the trees its home.

Coronata is a Latin word meaning crown. This, no doubt, refers to the yellow patch on the top of the head.

OVEN-BIRD—*Sciurus aurocapillus*³

One morning while preparing for breakfast, we heard a thump on the studio window.

"What was that?"

"I don't know. It sounded as though something hit the window."

"It's some kind of little bird."

Upon looking out of the window, we saw a bird lying on the ground. We went out and got it. It proved to be an Oven-bird which had been

stunned by flying against the window.

We put him in a box in the hope that soon he would regain consciousness.

Long before I came home from work he had recovered. That evening I got out my paints and made corrections on my Oven-bird painting. Every bird that I see from my studio window yields me a painting from life.

Next morning we turned him loose.

He was happy to leave us and he flew away frantically. His alarm soon left him and he alighted in some bushes half a block away and began hunting for food. The following spring there was an Oven-bird in the same area where we have ostrich fern, interrupted fern, violets in abundance, aquilegia, daffodils, rubrum and regal lilies, flanked by two Russian sabinas and a Pfitzer's juniper. This combination seems to be attractive to many birds. We have often wondered whether this last Oven-bird was the same one that we had in the house.

Oven-birds nest in Palisades-Kepler State Park. We have seen the birds at various times during the summer and

we have gotten close enough to their nests to have them show decided alarm. However, we have never located a nest.

CANADA WARBLER—*Wilsonia canadensis*⁴

Our warblers, the Wood Warblers, are distinctly an American family of birds—a group of birds that we can claim as entirely our own. During the migration periods, particularly the spring period, when the warblers proceed northward in wave after wave, we hold high hopes each year of being able to get a view of one, at least, of the rarer migrants. The Canada Warbler is one of the rarer warblers, and one that brings forth a burst of enthusiasm when observed.

Only one of these beautiful Canada Warblers has ever visited my studio window. I was surprised and delighted one May morning to see a warbler with much bright yellow on his under parts relieved by a necklace of jet black pendants, like bits of onyx. He was leisurely gathering insects from an elm branch not four feet from where I was sitting. I was struck by his exquisite beauty. I grabbed the nearest



OVEN-BIRD

³Sciurus is a Latinized combination of two Greek words meaning shake and tail. This refers to their tail-waving habit.

Aurocapillus is a combination of two Latin words, aurum and capillus meaning, respectively, gold and hair. This refers to the Oven-bird's orange crown.

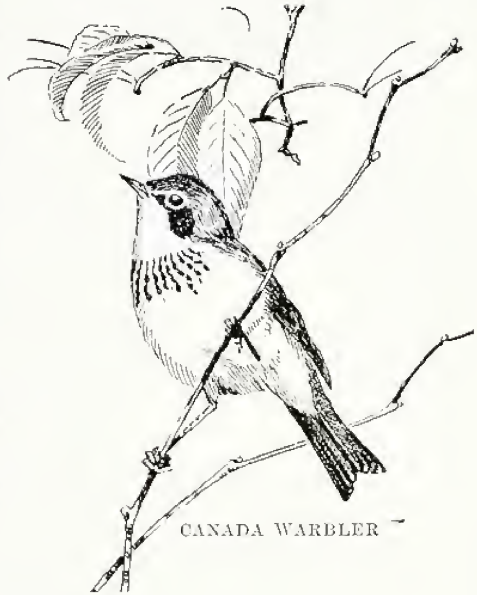
⁴Wilsonia—so named by Bonaparte in honor of Alexander Wilson, father of American ornithology.

Canadensis—a Latinized word referring to the Canadian life zone.

paper and pencil and made a hurried sketch with notes on color. From this I later painted a picture.

This particular warbler was doing the lower branches and shrubs in his search for food, and exhibiting flycatcher-like traits in his method of catching insects on the wing. I find that this pretty well outlines the characteristics of the bird, with perhaps a little more emphasis on the flycatcher trait. They are bright, energetic, optimistic, and cheerful, and, of course, unusual in their beauty. They migrate with other warblers and are on their way north from as far south as Peru.

The Canada Warbler is known in Iowa only as a migrant. Its breeding range is within the coniferous forest region of Canada from southern Alberta east to Newfoundland, extending as far south as central Minnesota, and east to central New York and southern New England. Its food includes such items as mosquitoes, moths, spiders and flies.



CANADA WARBLER

ELLISON ORR: NATURALIST, ARCHAEOLOGIST, CITIZEN

By CHARLES R. KEYES
Director, Iowa Archaeological Survey
MOUNT VERNON, IOWA

A man of erect figure, taller than average and broad of shoulder, opened the door for me when I first met Ellison Orr in the summer of 1918. His serenity of face, bodily posture, controlled voice all suggested a man who had thought much, experienced much, and lived happily in his natural and social environment. "A very unusual person," I said to myself as he led me upstairs to his study. An acquaintance of 27 years has revised this judgment only upward.

Surrounded by a select library, especially rich in the fields of geology, ornithology, and archaeology, and by cabinets containing extensive local collections of fossils and archaeological materials, a man of broad scientific culture had clearly created for himself here a congenial environment. Little by little, as the years passed, I drew from him some of the facts.

The geological collection in Mr. Orr's study was made up of the rocks, minerals and fossils found in the Waukon vicinity, Allamakee County, where he had spent nearly all his life, and every one of the thousands of specimens was neatly arranged and cataloged. The same was true of the archaeological collection, one of the largest and finest in Iowa, between four and five thousand items, most of these of a culture that at the time was entirely new to me, a Siouan archaeology from numerous sites on the Oneota, or Upper Iowa, a beautiful tributary of the Mississippi just south of the Minnesota line. Such series of stone, bone, shell and copper implements and ornaments I had not ex-

pected to find in Iowa, and the presence of a number of entire pottery vessels from the soil of my native state called for some further mental adjustment. Better still, if possible, were the three thick volumes of manuscript (ten as of 1945) filled with descriptive material, maps, sketches, and photographs, both of the objects collected and of the ancient village sites, the petroglyphs on the cliff walls of the Oneota



ELLISON ORR IN 1939

and the Mississippi, the various types of mounds, and the numerous enclosures with their earthen ramparts. Allamakee and Clayton Counties had been most thoroughly covered, instrumental surveys had been made, and these had all been tied in with the original surveys of the Federal government. What must have been the background of attainments such as these?

Mr. Orr is wholly an Iowa product, born on June 14, 1857, in a log house near McGregor. His father, James Orr, was of Scotch-Irish ancestry, born near Londonderry, Ireland. "You see," Mr. Orr told me, as he chuckled just a little, "the Lowland Scotch and the English quarreled a lot, and rather frequently the Scotch 'lifted' cattle off the English; since my mother, Margaret Ellison, although born in central New York, had quite the same ancestry as my father, I am derived on both sides from the Scotch 'cattle lifters.' The word Irish in the compound Scotch-Irish is due, you know, to the fact that Cromwell, in order to have peace on the border, transported the offending Scotch to North Ireland."

With their first-born son, the Orrs soon moved westward again, this time a short distance only, to another log-house home on a farm a mile and a half northeast of Postville in Allamakee. The life of the son Ellison was destined to revolve about this home for more than 40 years. He attended country school for five years, then entered the Postville schools where he received the equivalent of a high school education. He taught country school for several terms and put in three years as teacher of the seventh and eighth grades in Postville; between times he farmed the original 80 acres of the Orr farm, which had come to him in part by inheritance and in part by purchase. On November 2, 1881, he married Mary Belle Makepeace, daughter of an Indiana family

who had settled near Postville. A happy home life, with three sons and a daughter, lasted until 1915 with the passing of the wife and mother. Farming had alternated with several other activities before his permanent removal to Waukon in 1904: three years as assistant cashier of a bank in Postville; four years as clerk of court in Waukon; two years as a land salesman in Canada, the Dakotas, Kansas, and Oklahoma. From 1904 to 1909 he was manager of the Standard Telephone Company for six counties in southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa. When the Standard was taken over by the Bell Telephone Company in 1909, he became manager of the exchanges in Waukon and Lansing until he was retired and pensioned in 1930, two years and a half beyond the usual deadline of 70.

An outline like the above, while it indicates great variety of experience and abundant opportunities for weal or for woe, does not explain Ellison Orr. More illuminating is the growth of his interest in the natural sciences and prehistory. He is grateful to his father for having told him in childhood the names of a number of the common birds and animals, to a superintendent of the Postville schools for having called his attention to the flowers and trees. His easy familiarity with the out-of-doors, however, as shown in later years could only be the outcome of many years of careful study and observation and thoughtful contemplation of the things observed. Fortunately his story of the Passenger Pigeon in Iowa is preserved (Iowa Bird Life, June, 1936). He found his own geological field in a ravine leading down to the Yellow River, where the fossils were both numerous and, to him, very attractive. His archaeological field opened following his twenty-first year when he accepted the challenge of the Republicans to run for County Superintendent. He canvassed the county carefully, in which process he found the farmers of the Oneota valley in possession of many Indian relics from the ancient village sites on the valley terraces. Incidentally he came within 35 votes of being elected, in a county normally Democratic in 1878 by a thousand majority. Such a thing doesn't just happen; but it does reveal.

Even more illuminating, possibly, were the efforts of the boy to gain additions to his formal education. To enlarge his grasp of algebra, geometry, and Latin, he sought and obtained leave to take a fifth year in the Postville high school. To learn something of the German language, he took lessons from the Evangelical minister. To learn all he could of trigonometry and surveying, he studied with a retired government surveyor who had made his home in Postville. If later actual experience revealed a deficiency, he dug out the necessary facts and principles himself, such as knowledge of the law as it pertained to land surveys.

And how Mr. Orr has all his life turned everything to some good account! For his "retirement" in 1930 was strictly one huge joke. He never retired at all. As his knowledge of surveying was a mainstay during his 27 years as manager of a telephone system, just so surveying has remained, not an occasional, but almost a steady, profession, even to the present day. And if he can get a day now and then that he can call his own, he always has on hand plenty of interesting things to do.

When in 1934 the Federal agency FERA, followed a few years later by WPA, provided the workmen necessary for the making of archaeological excavations, Mr. Orr reached, I suspect, the climax of his remarkable career. For of course his experience in handling groups of men working in the open, his ability as a surveyor, and his competence as an archaeologist made his choice as Field Supervisor inevitable and most happy and most fortunate. The writer could spend only limited periods in the field during his summer vacations; Mr. Orr could and did take charge of his men from early April until late November, from spring's snow flurries to winter's storms. The results? A stream of cartons to my laboratory from all the corners of Iowa, up to the close of 1939, with approximately 50,000 items of scientific value, along

with hundreds of drawings, plats, maps, and photographs and hundreds of pages of notes, the 50,000 specimens excavated from depths up to ten feet below the surface of Iowa's fair landscape, the other things from skillful hands and a trained mind that knew how to produce them. Most of the long story remains to be told; only a general account of the first half of our first season has found its way into print (The Palimpsest, October, 1934).

When conditions permitted or when a conference was called for, it was the writer's privilege to spend longer or shorter periods with Mr. Orr and his men in the field. Many of these occasions are unforgettable. After supervisory or technical problems had been debated and solutions found, the two of us responsible for our Project's success would generally theorize for a time on the meaning of finds or conditions revealed by the excavation and then, with brain cells grown weary by our efforts, we would take a walk to see how the beaver colony was getting along or whether a new bird might have entered our area. Always it was amazing to note and feel Mr. Orr's calm and complete awareness of his natural surroundings. "Did you hear those calls of a Pileated Woodpecker when you were inspecting that trench?" (Allamakee county). "At the end of that side road that leads into the woods over there is a north slope and a fine large spring. You should come back about the first of October and see the many fringed gentians that bloom there" (Allamakee county). "When you drive out from Sioux City tomorrow, you must see in a little pool in the roadside ditch those two groups of cattails, one the broad-leafed, the other the narrow-leafed species" (Plymouth county). And in a letter accompanied by a photograph: "I wish you might see the beautiful clumps of pentstemon that grow on these Missouri river hills" (Mills county).

No doubt there are reasons, in addition to a fine heredity, that help to account for a sturdy and serene character now in the eighty-eighth year of its unfolding. For Mr. Orr has always been quite as aware of both individual and corporate human problems and needs as he has been conscious of his natural environment. In an aside to me a friend of his once remarked: "Orr would give the shirt off his back to a man who seemed to need it more than he did." Such a person must, of course, serve also the public to which he belongs: as member of the school board and the junior college board, as trustee of the city library, once even as trustee for a six-year term of the Iowa State College at Ames. And the great scientific collections too would have to be put to work permanently for the public. Apparently it never occurred to their builder to derive pecuniary benefit from them for himself. In due time and on his own initiative the geological collection was turned over by deed of gift to Luther College at Decorah; in the same way his great personal collection of archaeological materials was conveyed to The State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa City.

In March of the present year a four-page, closely-typed letter came from Mr. Orr, the richest in content ever to reach my desk. Three archaeological discoveries in Allamakee county, all of the past year and all of new and important significance, were described in detail and given most reasonable interpretations. The last two pages were devoted to tersely stated conclusions, numbered from one to eleven, based on his 66 years of study of his home county. There was very little about which one might even raise a question. Is it any wonder that I have come to think of him as one of Iowa's most stalwart citizens?

A. O. U. AFFILIATION. Iowans interested in joining the American Ornithologists' Union may receive information and blanks from Dr. Paul L. Errington, Iowa State College, Ames, who is representative for Iowa on the Membership Committee of the Union. Associate membership dues are \$3 annually and include subscription to 'The Auk', a quarterly journal of ornithology which contains about 150 pages per issue.

THE OTTUMWA MEETING

By LILLIAN SERBOUSEK

Sec'y-Treas., Iowa Ornithologists' Union

The 23rd annual meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was held Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6, 1945, at Ottumwa. The Saturday meeting opened at 8 p. m. at the Y. W. C. A., with greetings to the Union by Charles C. Ayres, Jr., President of the Ottumwa Bird Club. Dr. J. Harold Ennis, President of the Union, gave the response. This was followed by brief reports about "Birding News of 1945" by the following persons: Roscoe E. Stewart, Ottumwa; Dr. Warren N. Keck, Cedar Rapids; Dr. G. O. Hendrickson, Ames; Bruce F. Stiles, Des Moines; Mrs. Mary L. Bailey, Sioux City; J. Wilbur Dole, Fairfield; Mrs. Lola Deal, Cedar Falls; Mrs. R. S. Ruegnitz, Dubuque; Dr. P. P. Laude, Iowa City.

Four reels of colored motion pictures were shown: "Some Ducks and Geese", "Familiar Birds About the City", "Birds of an Inland Lake", and "The Bald Eagle"; the first two were furnished through the courtesy of Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, of the University of Minnesota. At the conclusion of the pictures refreshments were served in an adjoining room where there was an exhibit of bird pictures painted by Earnest Steffen of Cedar Rapids. Mr. Steffen presented one of his paintings to Dr. Harold Ennis. Also displayed was a group of bird houses built by Charles C. Ayres, Sr., of Ottumwa.

Three field trips, led by Miss Pearle Walker, Lawrence Voss, and Charles Ayres were scheduled for Sunday morning at 6. All trips terminated at Lake Wapello where a one o'clock luncheon was served. A mid-morning lunch was also served on the field trip. Out-of-town members were guests of the Ottumwa Bird Club. The luncheon was followed by an illustrated, humorous discussion about several new species of birds by Walter W. Aitken, state conservation officer at Lake Wapello.

The business meeting opened with the compilation of the bird list made by the combined groups on the morning field trip—a list which totaled 109. Charles Ayres, Jr. then presented a bird house, built by his father, as a prize to the lady and man who had the longest list of birds observed that morning. Miss Esther Copp with 65 to her credit and Henry Herrmann were the lucky ones. The minutes of the 1944 meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$250.23. President Ennis called on the chairmen of committees for reports. Miss Ila Glotfelty reported for the Auditing Committee, which included Mrs. W. G. MacMartin, Earnest Steffen, and Miss Marietta Eighme. Dr. P. P. Laude gave the report of the Resolutions Committee. The Nominating Committee (Mrs. Harold Peasley, Chairman, and Miss Pearle Walker and Dr. Keck) submitted the list of officers for the coming year (as given on the title page of this issue), and these were elected by a unanimous ballot cast by the Secretary upon motion of the voting members.

Dr. Ennis extended an invitation to the organization to meet at Mt. Vernon in 1946. An invitation from Cedar Falls was also extended. The place of the 1946 meeting was left to the decision of the Executive Council at a later date. A motion for adjournment was made and one of our most enjoyable meetings came to a close.

Resolutions.—In view of the wonderful time enjoyed by all, BE IT RESOLVED by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union that a vote of thanks be extended to the local club for their hospitality and the manner in which they have provided for our entertainment.

Be it further resolved: That the Iowa Ornithologists' Union thank E. W. Steffen for exhibiting his paintings;

That we extend our appreciation to Mr. Ayres for the exhibit of his bird houses;

That we thank Lawrence Voss for our badges and souvenirs;

That we extend our appreciation to Fred J. Pierce for the successful manner in which he has continued to publish 'Iowa Bird Life';

That we extend our appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Orville Clarke for the manner in which they have provided us with the dinner under the existing difficulties.

(Signed) The Resolutions Committee:

Peter P. Laude, Chairman

Mrs. R. S. Ruegnitz

John C. W. Bliese

Attendance Register.—AMES, Dr. and Mrs. G. O. Hendrickson; BLAKESBURG, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. E. Cunningham, Mrs. A. C. Rose, Joyce Rose; CEDAR FALLS, Mrs. Jennie Baxter, Frances Crouter, Verna Davis, Mrs. Lola Deal, Margaret Dorweiler; CEDAR RAPIDS, Esther Copp, Dr. W. N. Keck, Lillian Serbousek, Emily Steffen, E. W. Steffen, Grace Steffen, Iola Tillapaugh, Myra Willis; CENTERVILLE, Jock Graham; DES MOINES, Albert Berkowitz, Mrs. W. G. DuMont, Mrs. H. R. Peasley, Bruce F. Stiles; DRAKESVILLE, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Aitken; DUBUQUE, Frieda Blaufuss, Geo. Crossley, Henry Herrmann, Mrs. R. S. Ruegnitz, Ival Schuster; FAIRFIELD, Grace Calvert, J. Wilbur Dole, Ila Glotfelty, Faye Lawson, Florence Light; IOWA CITY, J. K. Brown, Mrs. Theodore Jahn, Dr. and Mrs. P. P. Laude, Dr. and Mrs. Robt. Vane; MT. VERNON, Dr. J. H. Ennis; OTTUMWA, Lillian Arihood, Chas. C. Ayres, Jr., C. C. Ayres, Sr., Edith Bannister, Dr. Murdoch Bannister, Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Blome, Lela Boulton, John Burke, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Burnes, Mrs. Burton Castle, Mildred Clark, Norman Crowe, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Daniels, Dorothy Dunham, Marietta Eighme, Elsie Finarty, Flora Galey, Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Glover, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hefflefinger, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Heinje, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Heinje, Elizabeth Henricks, Billy Hoskins, Winnifred Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Jago, Mabel Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph McElroy, Roger Mendenhall, Mabel Merritt, Maude Merritt, Elizabeth Morrow, Bettijane Obermann, Mrs. C. A. Plummer, Daisy Rees, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Reynolds, Susie Rhodes, Freda Rouze, Dick Secor, Janice Secor, Mrs. Raymond Secor, Leighton Smith, Mrs. S. A. Spilman, Geraldine Stewart, R. E. Stewart, Margaret Swain, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Swenson, Mrs. H. L. Tramp, Ruth Tyrrel, C. M. VanDeventer, Dr. T. L. Vineyard, Catherine Vinton, Mr. and Mrs. E. Voss, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Voss, Sandy Voss, Mrs. Evon Walker, Mrs. Mabel Walker, Pearle Walker, Marilyn Watterson, Mrs. Will Webb, Laura Weible, Violet Wheeler, Mrs. Ernest Wilson, Jane Wood, Mary Evelyn Wood; SIOUX CITY, Mrs. Mary L. Bailey; TAMA, Mrs. J. G. Ennis, Mrs. W. G. MacMartin; OAK RIDGE, TENN., John C. W. Bliese. Total registered, 124.

THE INVASION OF THE STARLING INTO IOWA

By PHILIP A. DU MONT

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The progressive invasion of the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) into all parts of Iowa was recorded with such completeness it has been possible to tabulate its first appearances in each of the 99 counties.

The first record at Lamoni, in December, 1922, consisted of a single

bird whose sporadic entry into Iowa was one of two isolated records, west of the Mississippi River and in the north, prior to 1928.

In general, earliest records appear to coincide with the location of active field observers. However, from 1933 to 1935 the movement westward apparently followed each winter migration southward, although the counties along the Missouri River were visited before those of the northwest where the elevation approaches or exceeds 1400 feet above sea level.

FIRST OCCURRENCE OF THE STARLING IN THE 99 IOWA COUNTIES

County	Locality	Date	Observer	No. Seen
Adair	Bridgewater	April 13, 1934	Harlow B. Mills	1
Adams	Corning	April 10, 1934	Harlow B. Mills	1
Allamakee	Waukon Junction	May 16, 1933	Oscar P. Allert	11
Appanoose	Northwest corner	August, 1933	Faye Blakey	16
Audubon	West of Kimballton	May 26, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	1
Benton	Belle Plaine	July 5, 1932	Philip A. DuMont	1
Black Hawk	Near Waterloo	January, 1933	Burr Lichty	1
Boone	Ogden	Dec. 18, 1931	Walter Rosene	Several
Bremer	Janesville	Nov. 18, 1931	Charles J. Spiker	3
Buchanan	Quasqueton	Feb. 21, 1932	Fred J. Pierce	4
Buena Vista	North of Alta	Aug. 25, 1935	Wm. Youngworth	2
Butler	Aredale	April 21, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	2
Calhoun	Twin Lakes	March 20, 1934	M. L. Jones	1
Carroll	North of Carroll	June 9, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	2
Cass	South of Atlantic	August 19, 1934	Wm. Youngworth	4 or 5
Cedar	West Branch	Spring, 1930	Mrs. J. Z. Howard	1
Cerro Gordo	Near Mason City	April 19, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	8
Cherokee	South of Cherokee	March 19, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	1
Chickasaw	New Hampton	April 8, 1929	Louis Fliger	1
Clarke	Near Osceola	Oct. 15, 1934	Wm. Youngworth	25-30
Clay	Near Ruthven	Dec. 9, 1933	Philip A. DuMont	6
Clayton	National	April 26, 1930	Althea R. Sherman	1
Clinton	North of Folletts	April 16, 1933	Philip A. DuMont	2
Crawford	Northwest of Dunlap	May 26, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	2, 1
Dallas	Long Pond	April 2, 1933	Walter Rosene & A. J. Palas	2
Davis	Near West Grove	May 12, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	1
Decatur	Lamoni	December, 1922	W. S. Long	1
Delaware	Manchester	Oct. 3, 1931	O. M. Greenwood	1
Des Moines	Near Ray's Lake	Sept. 15, 1933	Harold M. Holland	2
Dickinson	Northwest of Milford	July 12, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	2
Dubuque	Durango	Dec. 23, 1931	Charles J. Spiker	6
Emmet	Iowa Lake	April 12, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	2
Fayette	Elgin	March 30, 1932	Oscar P. Allert	3
Floyd	Charles City	March 19, 1933	Mrs. R. W. Staber	25+
Franklin	South of Hampton	April 19, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	7, 2, 2
Fremont	West of Shenandoah	Winter, 1932-33	Charles E. Danker	A few
Greene	Near Grand Junction	Sept. 30, 1934	Wm. Youngworth	45-50
Grundy	Grundy Center	Spring, 1933	Mrs. Helen G. King	2
Guthrie	Guthrie Center	Dec. 28, 1933	Harlow B. Mills	5
Hamilton	South of Stanhope	Oct. 23, 1933	Philip A. DuMont	7
Hancock	Near Klemme	April 3, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	5
Hardin	South of Hubbard	April 21, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	1
Harrison	Logan	Nov. 5, 1934	Wm. Youngworth	4 or 5
Henry	Mt. Pleasant	Summer, 1929	H. E. Jaques & Pete Parks	Several
Howard	Maple Leaf	Dec. 14, 1933	Oscar P. Allert	9
Humboldt	South of Humboldt	May 5, 1934	Walter Rosene & Philip A. DuMont	2

[illegible]

INVASION OF IOWA BY THE EUROPEAN STARLING

County	Locality	Date	Observer	No. Seen
Adair	Near Ida Grove	April 22, 1933	Wm. Youngworth	2
Adams	Amana	February, 1933	W. F. Kubichek	100
Adams	Baldwin	April 15, 1933	Philip A. DuMont	2
Adams	East of Newton	June 12, 1933	Mr. & Mrs. H. Brunner	12
Adams	Fairfield	Dec. 23, 1930	Malcolm McDonald	12
Adams	Oxford	March, 1928	W. F. Kubichek	A few
Adams	Wyoming	April 15, 1933	Philip A. DuMont	2
Adams	Sigourney	Jan. 20, 1930	E. D. Nauman	1
Adams	Union Slough	Jan. 23, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	1
Adams	Keokuk	March, 1932	C. E. Ehinger	Flocks
Adams	Cedar Rapids	Spring, 1931	W. F. Kubichek & F. L. R. Roberts	A pair
Adams	Columbus Junction	April 16, 1933	Philip A. DuMont	1
Adams	East of Chariton	May 4, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	1, 2
Adams	North of Lucas	May 4, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	1
Adams	Near Larchwood	June 2, 1935	Wm. Youngworth	Several pairs
Adams	Near Macksburg	March 4, 1933	F. W. Cochran	A flock
Adams	Near Stark	April, 1932	Prof. G. C. Hawks	12
Adams	Pella	Sept. 20, 1932	Philip A. DuMont	3
Adams	LeGrand	Dec. 25, 1931	Harlow B. Mills	2
Adams	Near Hillsdale	Sept. 27, 1934	Wm. Youngworth	2
Adams	Little Cedar	May 22, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	4
Adams	Onawa	March 24, 1932	Walter C. Thietji	8
Adams	Near Albia	May 4, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	1, 3, 1, 1
Adams	Stanton	April 12, 1934	Harlow B. Mills	1
Adams	Near West Liberty	Feb. 26, 1933	F. L. R. Roberts & P. A. DuMont	300
Adams	Near Hartley	Nov. 27, 1934	Wm. Youngworth	2
Adams	S.W. of Melvin	April 22, 1936	O. S. Thomas	2
Adams	N.E. of Shenandoah	Winter, 1932-33	Charles E. Danker	Several
Adams	Lost Island Lake	December, 1933	Gerald B. Spawn	5 or 6
Adams	Westfield	March 24, 1934	Harlow B. Mills	1
Adams	Near Pomeroy	May 20, 1934	M. L. Jones	2
Adams	Des Moines	March 21, 1929	Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Lee	2
Adams	Near Taylor	July 22, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	22
Adams	Near Grinnell	Feb. 5, 1933	Mrs. W. G. DuMont	25
Adams	North of Mt. Ayr	May 11, 1934	Harlow B. Mills	1
Adams	Auburn	June 9, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	1
Adams	Davenport	Nov. 10, 1931	Philip A. DuMont	8
Adams	Northwest of Earling	May 26, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	1, 1, 4
Adams	South of Maurice	May 24, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	2
Adams	Colo	Aug. 5, 1932	Philip A. DuMont	4
Adams	Tama	Dec. 18, 1932	Mrs. W. G. MacMartin	3
Adams	East of Bedford	June 29, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	6
Adams	West of Creston	Feb. 10, 1932	John Kennedy	3
Adams	Mt. Zion	Sept. 26, 1932	Robert Campbell	2
Adams	Agency	May 4, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	1
Adams	Milo	Dec. 6, 1933	Idris Wright	1
Adams	Washington	August 22, 1931	Philip A. DuMont	12
Adams	Union Township	June, 1932	Faye Blakey	17
Adams	Near Clare	March 4, 1933	M. L. Jones	4
Adams	East of Rake	May 22, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	1
Adams	Canoe	Nov. 11, 1933	Oscar P. Allert	1
Adams	Sioux City	Oct. 1, 1933	Wm. Youngworth	4
Adams	Kensett	April 20, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	2
Adams	Cornelia	April 3, 1934	Philip A. DuMont	6

GENERAL NOTES

An Albino Junco.—On March 29, 1945, Mrs. Eugene Smith and I saw an albino Slate-colored Junco while we were on a field trip near the river in Cedar Heights. We observed it for some time with binoculars and with the naked eye as it was quite near us. The head was a pale gray, the bill a pinkish color, and the wings and tail were pure white. The back was a rather light buff. It was with a flock of Slate-colored Juncos.—MRS. RAY S. DIX, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Bird Notes from Davenport.—On February 17, 1945, there were five adult Bald Eagles along the Mississippi River near Davenport. They spent the day exploring the river and catching fish. On February 23, a few Mallards were swimming in the river. Next day, February 24, hundreds of gulls came. They were probably Herring Gulls, but they stayed so far out from the Iowa shore that it was impossible to make out the species.

Two uncommon birds were observed here during the past winter. One was the Winter Wren, seen on December 26, 1944; the other was a Red-breasted Nuthatch which I saw on January 13, 1945.

On May 11, 1945, while taking the spring bird census at Credit Island, I saw 12 Virginia Rails around a small pond of water that remained in the golf course, which was under water this spring. They allowed me to approach within 10 feet. On April 14, while on a field trip in the woods near Davenport, I found a Pileated Woodpecker. My first record of the Mockingbird was made on March 30, when I discovered two individuals sitting in a small tree. On April 19 I saw a Pine Siskin, and on May 10 I saw a Yellow-breasted Chat along a small creek.—JIM HODGES, Davenport, Iowa.

RECENT BIRD BOOKS

BIRDS OF GEORGIA; A Preliminary Check-List and Bibliography of Georgia Ornithology, compiled by Earle R. Greene, Wm. W. Griffin, Eugene P. Odum, Herbert L. Stoddard, and Ivan R. Tomkins (University of Georgia Press, Athens, Ga., 1945; cloth, pp. 1-111, with 1 pl. & 1 map; price, \$2).

Although a preliminary report, this is a very thorough work on the birds of Georgia. For a number of years a small group of enthusiastic and well-trained ornithologists have been making careful field studies and assembling data for the state list. The birth of the Georgia Ornithological Society and its subsequent growth into an important state bird society, furnished the structure for organized bird work and gave impetus to the preparation of the state list. At the same time, the need for an adequate state book became more acute as the number of active bird students increased. The publication of the 'Birds of Georgia' is the culmination of a great deal of cooperative effort.

As an introduction to the book the 'Historical Narrative' by Dr. Eugene Edmund Murphey is very interesting. He sketches in brief biographical form the observers who have worked with Georgia birds. The first one mentioned is Mark Catesby, who began exploring the Savannah River in 1723. John Bartram in his early travels visited the region in 1765, and his son William followed eight years later. Other noted ornithologists who left their mark on Georgia ornithology included Alexander Wilson, Thomas Nuttall, John Abbot, and the LeConte brothers. Through many decades, down to the present time, Dr. Murphey lists the various workers in ornithology and gives illuminating biographical details.

The annotated check-list covers 44 pages, with the range of each bird outlined within the state and various records given. The troublesome problem of subspecies, never absent in state lists, is given quite full coverage. There are no less than four subspecific forms listed for the Song Sparrow—the Eastern, the Atlantic, the Mississippi and the

Dakota. When some of these forms also occur in Iowa, we wonder how the range of a particular form is held down to a reasonable limit. The bibliography covers 32 pages. The book closes with a list of the local bird clubs in the state (nine of them) and an ornithological map of Georgia with a description of the principal physiographic regions.—F. J. P.

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As Part II of the 'Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit', issue of October, November, December 1944, there is a 12-year report on the activities of this Unit. This is issued in mimeographed form at Iowa State College, Ames, and presumably copies may be obtained by interested persons. The report covers 38 pages and gives an outline of the origin and varied functions of this wildlife program as administered in Iowa—services, finances, facilities, demonstration areas, students and employment positions obtained, wildlife courses offered, conference and training courses, extension work, wildlife management in the war emergency, and publications. The publications number 329 titles of articles and bulletins which covered 3,133 pages. About one-fourth of the publications are of a popular nature, primarily educational, and some were in the form of illustrated bulletins. The report will give the public a good idea of the extent and highly important work of the Unit as an integral part in the national program of wildlife conservation.

LOCAL BIRD CLUBS IN IOWA

SIOUX CITY.—The following brief outline of the aims and activities of the Sioux City Bird Club will help to acquaint readers with what our club has been doing since the fall of 1943, when we observed the 30th anniversary of the organization.

A major project in 1944 was the sponsorship of the entire June issue of 'Iowa Bird Life', which was devoted to the history of ornithology in northwest Iowa and to the organizing and work of the Sioux City Bird Club during the preceding 30 years. This special anniversary issue of 'Iowa Bird Life' was dedicated to our Club.

During past years the Club has held spring and autumn picnics. During 1944, due to transportation restrictions, they were held at Latham and Riverside Parks, which are accessible from street car lines. Field trip meetings are usually combined with the picnics. Continuous observations and records of the migratory and resident bird life of the area are encouraged at all times. We participated in the second spring bird count, sponsored by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union in 1944. We have also co-operated with this organization and with the National Audubon Society in the taking of the annual Christmas bird census. We have taken field trips whenever possible, and this included the spring trip to see the migrating geese on the Hornick Bottoms. Our annual dinner is held in March. We also maintain 'The Dickcissel', official mimeographed publication of the Club.

Along the line of civic interest, we have given educational service to the Sioux City community by co-operating with the National Audubon Society in presenting the "Audubon Wildlife Screen Tours", which were instituted in the middle west in 1942. A third lecture of the series was presented on January 13, 1945, when Cleveland P. Grant spoke on "Wildlife of Marsh and Mountain", accompanied by kodachrome motion pictures. Mr. Grant has a charming personality, a good voice and complete knowledge of his subject. His photography was unusual in that he spent a good deal of time with each species, from the egg in the nest to the juvenile bird. His films and lecture covered two parts—birds and mammals. The mammals were dealt with just as understandingly as the birds. The entire program was a treat for the crowd of about 500 people who came to see, listen, learn and appreciate.

—ZELL C. LEE.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Dr. and Mrs. Ivan L. Boyd announce the arrival of a daughter, Barbara Kay, on May 22. Congratulations!

Dr. Martin L. Grant, our former President, who was sent to Colombia, South America, on a mission as a professional botanist for the United States Government, has now returned to his home at Cedar Falls. Mrs. Grant and his family joined him at Bogota, and six months ago a daughter, Lois, was born. The Grants shipped home nearly a ton of baggage, mostly plants, curios, literature and clothes, besides 250 lbs. carried with them. The return itinerary, by airplane from Bogota to St. Louis, was a very interesting one, which Dr. Grant summarized as follows: April 3, Bogota to Medellin, Colombia, for a day's stop. April 4, fly to Balboa, Canal Zone, for a two-day stop; trip to Barro Colorado Island, in the Canal. April 6, to San Jose, Costa Rica, two-day stop. April 8, to Managua, Nicaragua, two-day stop. April 10, to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, two-day stop. April 12, to San Salvador, El Salvador, two-day stop. April 14, to Guatemala City, Guatemala, two-day stop. April 16, to Tapachula, Mexico, one-day stop. April 17, to Oaxaca, Mexico, two-day stop. April 19, to Acapulco, Mexico, famous resort, two-day stop. April 21, to Mexico City, for five-day stop, with short trips to Xochimilco and other nearby places. April 26, to Tampico, Mexico, one-day stop. April 27, to Brownsville, Texas. April 28-29, to Houston, Shreveport, Little Rock, Memphis, St. Louis and Terre Haute. April 30, to Washington, D. C., where Dr. Grant worked in the FEA office and National Arboretum Herbarium until about May 30.

Mrs. Ross J. Thornburg, formerly of Des Moines, who has been living in the Southwest for the past few years, writes an interesting letter from Tucson, Arizona, under date of March 26, 1945, from which we quote the below paragraph:

"We have moved back to the Sabino Canyon area, and after about 30 days here shall be hunting cooler regions. This a very interesting bird territory. About 20 minutes after we put out feed, a pair of Gambel's Quail came and ate. They come two or three times a day and probably nest not far away. The last two mornings I noticed the male about seven o'clock; he waited for the female to join him a little later. A pair of Sparrow Hawks are nesting in the same Sahuaro as last year. A male Black-chinned Hummer is the first to come to our 'honey-flower'. Regular boarders are Palmer's Thrashers, Canon Towhee, Cactus Wrens, Cardinals, Gambel's Sparrows and Gila Woodpeckers. I found a nest of Towhees where they were feeding young. Verdins, Phainopeplas, Thrashers, Cardinals and Plumbeous Gnatcatchers are busy building. We had a chance to add Sharp-shin Hawk pictures to our collection when one was stunned as it flew into a window last winter."

Ralph Heuer, writing on April 19, 1945, says: "After being on the Admiralty Islands, which was the last geographical location of our battalion I was permitted to tell you of, we spent about three months on Guadalcanal. We left Guadalcanal during March and, on April 1st, arrived in Okinawa in the Ryukyu group. The water was quite rough on the trip up here. It is spring of the year here now, with climate similar to that of Florida. We had a little time getting acclimated to the weather here. After being whisked out of the tropics and sent up here in a little over two weeks time, our blood was bound to be a little on the thin side. We had spent two years down in the tropics. . . . The Japs keep reminding us that they are still around. Have seen several of those famous Jap suicide planes shot down. They seem to be just what they are cracked up to be and really bore into a target once they set their sights on it. . . . Haven't been able to observe any of the birds at close range because they seem to be so wary." (Mr. Heuer's home address is Davenport, Iowa. He is a member of a U. S. Navy Construction Battalion.)